Application No.: 09/913,960   Docket No.: 21900-00035-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please replace the paragraph from lines 6-19 with the following amended paragraph:

A1

The present invention relates to an index preparing method and apparatus for utilizing a calculator and/or a computer to perform search, classification, tendency analysis, and the like of vector data with respect to a vector database as a group of vector data (N-dimensional real vector usually called "characteristic vector" obtained by arranging N real numbers indicating data characteristics) prepared by extracting respective data characteristics from various electronically accumulated databases (data groups) of text information, image information, sound information, questionnaire result, sales result (POS) and other data. The present invention also relates to a similar vector searching method and apparatus for using the index prepared by the aforementioned method and apparatus to efficiently search a vector similar to a designated vector.

2